

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Open Session – 7:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair, Kathleen Swanson.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present, chair, Kathleen Swanson, member, Ron Cervasio, and vice Chair, Shelley Pezza arriving at 7:02pm. Also present were Superintendent / Principal Davida Irving and FSC secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by everyone in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.
3. **Building Use Requests** – there were no building Use requests.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the Open and Executive Session Minutes were approved as written. Vote = 2-0-0.
5. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved all warrants as presented. (Run# 19 for \$88,300.95, Run #18 for \$10,478.97, & Run # 20 for \$193,378.41) Vote = 2-0-0.
 - a. *Business Manager's Report* – Dr. Irving reviewed the Business Manager's report with the FSC. She informed the FSC that the report does not accurately reflect the current financial status, as the salaries have not been posted.
6. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
 - a. *Curriculum Coordination with Glocester* – Dr. Irving updated the FSC on the March meeting that was held and several issues were reviewed; formula assessments, AIMS-web verses what Glocester uses for assessments; there are state recommendations but these have not been in use for very long. The three Superintendents', Principals of the elementary and middle schools and the fifth and sixth grade teachers will meet to discuss and review options.
 - b. *2012-2013 Budget* – there was nothing to report at this time but this item will remain on the Agenda.
 - c. *2013-2014 Budget* – Dr. Irving updated the FSC on the current budget workshops with the Town Council. Some members needed more information in order to

make their decision. There is another meeting/workshop scheduled for Thursday and Dr. Irving plans on attending. The FSC discussed the fact of several absorptions that have been made over a three year period and feel the increase to the school's budget is fair and responsible. Kelli Russ, Interim Business Manager, supplied the FSC with an analysis of budgets over the last seven years. Discussion followed.

- d. *Homework Policy* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to table this item. Motion failed. Vote = 1-2-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – no

Ms. Pezza – no

Mrs. Cervasio – yes

The Homework Policy was discussed and no votes were taken. However, it will be up for review and discussion in April.

- e. *Strategic Plan Update*

- 1) Vision/Mission – Dr. Irving supplied the FSC with the current Tri-District Strategic Plan. Discussion followed.

7. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *2013-2014 Calendar* – Mrs. Swanson shared that the 2013-2014 calendar is being discussed at the Regional level but no decisions have been made. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to table this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- b. *Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures* – Dr. Irving relayed that the current procedures are working well and that safety of students and staff are the main concern.
- c. *NECAP Report* – Dr. Lorraine Bowen presented the fall NECAP results with the FSC.

At this point Chair, Kathleen Swanson, moved item **#8b1 Facilities Update** on the Agenda. Mr. McGovern reported out on the Odeh Report. The roof of the school had been shoveled after a large storm. There should be no problems if the recommendations are followed. At the Building Committee meeting, discussion of budgeting \$6000.00 per year roof snow removal.

- d. *Health Policy* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the first reading of the Health Policy. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- e. *Technology Update* – the FSC mandated the following items be put into place by September 2013.
 - 1) Virtual Backpack
 - 2) Digital Report Cards

- 3) Electronic Attendance
- 4) Phone System

f. *Resignations* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC accepted the resignation of Marianne Manzi-Adams as school Nurse / Teacher with deep regret. Motion passed Vote – 3-0-0.

8. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* - Chair, Mrs. Swanson, relayed she has received correspondence from a concerned parent about the Drop-off / Pick-up procedures.
- b. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Irving had laryngitis and did not give her report.
 - 1) *Facilities Update* – was discussed earlier on the Agenda.
- c. *Future Agenda Items* –
 - 1) Arbitration / Notification

9. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to resume Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson, Chair, relayed that Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel was discussed and no votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

10. Adjournment – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:36pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee